01.04.2007) is noticed, the manufacturer is asked to bring down the price voluntarily failing which, subject to prescribed conditions action is initiated under paragraph 10(b) of the DPCO, 1995 for fixing the price of the formulation in public interest. This is an ongoing process.

(d) to (f) The Government has prepared a draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy, 2006, which was submitted to the Cabinet for its approval. It has also been proposed in the draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 that basket of drugs for price control would be the essential medicines as contained in the National List of Essential Medicines 2003 (subject to certain conditions and exemptions) in addition to the 74 drugs which are at present under price control under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995. Further, it has also been proposed to issue new Drugs (Prices Control) Order on the basis of the new policy framework to replace the existing DPCO, 1995. The Cabinet having considered the Policy in its meeting held on 11.1.2007 decided that it be considered by a Group of Ministers (GOM) at the first instance. The GOM held four meetings but did not make recommendations to the Cabinet. Draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy can be finalized only after GOM makes its recommendations to the Cabinet.

Shortage of fertilizers and seeds

3071. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an artificial shortage of fertilizers and seeds has been created in Haveri district of Karnataka thus generating discontentment among farmers there; and

(b) if so, what action Government has taken to address the problem there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Department of Fertilizers, Government of India ensures availability of fertilizers at State level. The distribution of fertilizers within the State rests with the State Government. The availability of Urea, DAP, MOP and complex fertilisers in Karnataka during Kharif, 2009 (April to July, 2009) is as under:—

('000 tonnes)

Month	UREA		DAP		MOP		NPK	
	Req.	Avl.	Req.	Avl.	Req.	Avl.	Req.	Avl.
April'09	40.00	68.59	30.00	61.83	30.00	37.74	50.00	86.24
May'09	60.00	81.61	75.00	144.07	27.00	37.82	76.90	107.45
June'09	130.00	135.91	123.30	164.33	51.00	76.22	109.50	94.51
July'09	170.00	171.00*	85.00	141.56*	54.00	29.67*	124.00	85.64*

(*as on 30/07/2009)

As can be seen, availability of Urea and DAP is comfortable. However, there may be little tightness in availability of complex (NPK) fertilizers because of lower level of indigenous production and also as can not be imported as these are not covered under existing concession scheme. There may be a slight shortage of MOP in the month of July. The MOP importers have already entered into supply contracts and arrivals of imported MOP vessels will start soon, which will improve supplies of MOP to Karnataka.

The State Governments, as the enforcement agencies, are adequately empowered under Fertiliser Control Order, 1985 to take appropriate action against any offender who indulges in any kind of malpractices including black marketing, artificial shortage and hording etc.

Fertilizers subsidy

3072. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount released for fertilizer subsidy for the years 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and whether the benefit of subsidy is actually reaching the farmers;

(b) what is the total requirement of fertilizers for the country and per hectare utilization of fertilizers, national average as also, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government is thinking of any alternative option to give subsidy to farmers directly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) The expenditure on fertilizer subsidy is as below:—

(Rs. in crore)

Item	Amount of Subsidy (Gross) disbursed				
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Imported Urea	742.37	2140.88	5071.06	9934.99	12971.18
Indigenous Urea	10243.15	10652.57	12650.37	12950.37	17968.74
Cash Bonds	—	—	—	3500.00	3000.00
Imported P&K	1165.18	2097.00	3649.95	5100.00	23847.69
Cash Bonds	—	—	—	1500.00	8750.00
Indigenous P&K	3977.00	4499.19	6648.16	7833.80	24707.10
Cash Bonds	—	—	—	2500.00	8250.00
TOTAL:	16127.70	19389.64	28019.54	43319.16	99494.71

Further, in the current year, the estimated requirement of fertilizer subsidy has been assessed at Rs. 77,425.19 crore. (gross)